

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

0500-M713

**Case Title:**

Gomez Recycling

**Reporting Office:**

Chicago, IL, Area Office

**Subject of Report:**

Initial CCDEC meeting

**Activity Date:**

April 2, 2015

**Reporting Official and Date:**

Special Agent

04-APR-2015, Signed by

**Approving Official and Date:**

Special Agent in Charge

10-APR-2015, Approved by

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

**SYNOPSIS**

The Chicago Area Office is conducting a preliminary investigation of Gomez Recycling, 4600 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL for allegedly disposing of benzene, metals, oil and gas into the City of Chicago, IL storm sewers resulting in violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

On April 2, 2015 EPA-CID SA met with Cook County Department of Environmental Control Inspector John Singler regarding Chicago Police Department and CCDEC's discovery of stolen auto parts acceptance and sells by Gomez Recycling, and a direct discharge pipe that Gomez allegedly used to dispose of its waste streams into the storm sewer. Details are discussed in the following narrative.

**DETAILS**

On April 2, 2015 EPA-CID SA met with Cook County Department of Environmental Control Inspector John Singler regarding Chicago Police Department and CCDEC's discovery of stolen auto parts acceptance and sells by Gomez Recycling, and a direct discharge pipe that Gomez allegedly used to dispose of its waste streams into the storm sewer.

Upon meeting Singler, he escorted SA onsite and approached Sgt. . After introductions, Sgt. informed SA that and department were on the second day of a potential three day search warrant where the owners and employees of Gomez were arrested onsite. Numerous catalytic converters, motors and additional auto parts were found onsite.

Singler then escorted SA to location of a hidden pipe and drain (outside the facility) and a direct discharge manhole (inside the facility) was housed. Singler stated once the pool of chemicals from the criminal process was noticed, he and his department conducted dye test to show that the discharge pipe ran from inside a facility drain, through a pipe source, down into the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago storm sewer system. Singler informed SA that CCDEC report and photos will be forwarded to him via email.